given that the SAB Hypoxia Advisory Panel will hold a public meeting to develop a report that details advancements in the state of the science regarding hypoxia in the Northern Gulf of Mexico. The SAB was established by 42 U.S.C. 4365 to provide independent scientific and technical advice to the Administrator on the technical basis for Agency positions and regulations. The SAB is a Federal Advisory Committee chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended, 5 U.S.C., App. The SAB will comply with the provisions of FACA and all appropriate SAB Staff Office procedural policies.

Background: EPA participates with other Federal agencies, states and tribes in the Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico Watershed Nutrient Task Force. In 2001, the Task Force released the Action Plan for Reducing, Mitigating and Controlling Hypoxia in the Northern Gulf of Mexico (or Action Plan available at *http://www.epa.gov/msbasin/taskforce/actionplan.htm*). The Action Plan was informed by the science described in An Integrated Assessment of Hypoxia in the Northern Gulf of Mexico (or Integrated Assessment available at *http://www.noaa.gov/products/hypox_finalfront.pdf*) developed by the National Science and Technology Council, Committee on Environment and Natural Resources. Six technical reports provided the scientific foundation for the Integrated Assessment and are available at *http://www.nos.noaa.gov/products/pub_hypox.html*. The aforementioned documents provide a comprehensive summary of the state-of-the-science for the Gulf of Mexico hypoxic zone through about the year 2000.

EPA's Office of Water has requested that the SAB develop a report that evaluates the state-of-the-science regarding the causes and extent of hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico, as well as the scientific basis of possible management options in the Mississippi River Basin. The SAB is asked to focus on scientific advances since 2000 that may have increased scientific understanding and control options in three general areas.

1. *Characterization of the Cause(s) of Hypoxia.* The physical, biological and chemical processes that affect the development, persistence and extent of hypoxia in the northern Gulf of Mexico.

2. *Characterization of Nutrient Fate, Transport and Sources.* Nutrient loadings, fate, transport and sources in the Mississippi River that impact Gulf Hypoxia.

3. *Scientific Basis for Goals and Management Options.* The scientific basis for, and recommended revisions to, the goals proposed in the Action Plan; and the scientific basis for the efficacy of recommended management actions to reduce nutrient flux from point and nonpoint sources.

In response to EPA's request, the SAB Staff Office formed the SAB Hypoxia Advisory Panel. Background on the Panel formation process was provided in a **Federal Register** notice published on February 17, 2006 (71 FR 8578–8580). The SAB Hypoxia Advisory Panel met on September 6–7, 2006 to plan its work and organized itself into three subgroups corresponding to the three general areas described above. Background for the first meeting of the Hypoxia Advisory Panel was provided in a **Federal Register** published on August 9, 2006 (71 FR 45543–45544). The three subgroups of the Panel have held multiple public teleconferences to begin developing the Panel's report. Background information for the subgroup teleconferences was provided in **Federal Register** notices published on September 25, 2006 (71 FR 55786–55787) and October 6, 2006 (71 FR 59107). Information about the SAB Hypoxia Advisory Panel is available on the SAB Web site at: *http://www.epa.gov/sab.*

Availability of Meeting Materials: Materials in support of this meeting will be placed on the SAB Web site *http://www.epa.gov/sab/* in advance of the meeting.

Procedures for Providing Public Input: Interested members of the public may submit relevant written or oral information for the SAB to consider during the advisory process. *Oral Statements:* In general, individuals or groups requesting an oral presentation at a public meeting will be limited to five minutes per speaker, with no more than a total of one hour for all speakers. Interested parties should contact Dr. Stallworth, DFO, at the contact information noted above, no later than November 28, 2006, to be placed on the public speaker list for the December 6–8, 2006 meeting. *Written Statements:* Written statements should be received in the SAB Staff Office no later than November 28, 2006 so that the information may be made available to the SAB for their consideration prior to this meeting. Written statements should be supplied to the DFO in the following formats: One hard copy with original signature, and one electronic copy via e-mail to *stallworth.holly@epa.gov* (acceptable file format: Adobe Acrobat PDF, WordPerfect, MS Word, MS PowerPoint, or Rich Text files in IBM–PC/Windows 98/2000/XP format).

Meeting Access: For information on access or services for individuals with disabilities, please contact Dr. Stallworth at (202) 343–9867 or *stallworth.holly@epa.gov.* To request accommodation of a disability, please contact Dr. Stallworth, preferably at least 10 days prior to the meeting to give EPA as much time as possible to process your request.

Dated: November 7, 2006.

Anthony F. Maciorowski,

Associate Director for Science, EPA Science Advisory Board Staff Office.

[FR Doc. E6–19171 Filed 11–13–06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560–50–P

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Formations of, Acquisitions by, and Mergers of Bank Holding Companies

The companies listed in this notice have applied to the Board for approval, pursuant to the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 (12 U.S.C. 1841 *et seq.*) (BHC Act), Regulation Y (12 CFR Part 225), and all other applicable statutes and regulations to become a bank holding company and/or to acquire the assets or the ownership of, control of, or the power to vote shares of a bank or bank holding company and all of the banks and nonbanking companies owned by the bank holding company, including the companies listed below.

The applications listed below, as well as other related filings required by the Board, are available for immediate inspection at the Federal Reserve Bank indicated. The application also will be available for inspection at the offices of the Board of Governors. Interested persons may express their views in writing on the standards enumerated in the BHC Act (12 U.S.C. 1842(c)). If the proposal also involves the acquisition of a nonbanking company, the review also includes whether the acquisition of the nonbanking company complies with the standards in section 4 of the BHC Act (12 U.S.C. 1843). Unless otherwise noted, nonbanking activities will be conducted throughout the United States. Additional information on all bank holding companies may be obtained from the National Information Center website at *www.ffiec.gov/nic/*.

Unless otherwise noted, comments regarding each of these applications must be received at the Reserve Bank indicated or the offices of the Board of Governors not later than December 8, 2006.

A. Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta (Andre Anderson, Vice President) 1000

Peachtree Street, N.E., Atlanta, Georgia 30309:

1. Whitney Holding Corporation, New Orleans, Louisiana; to merge with Signature Financial Holdings, Inc., and thereby acquire Signature Bank, both of St. Petersburg, Florida.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, November 8, 2006.

Robert deV. Frierson,

Deputy Secretary of the Board.

[FR Doc. E6–19200 Filed 11–13–06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6210–01–S

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the Secretary

Notice of Interest Rate on Overdue Debts

Section 30.13 of the Department of Health and Human Services' claims collection regulations (45 CFR Part 30) provides that the Secretary shall charge an annual rate of interest as fixed by the Secretary of the Treasury after taking into consideration private consumer rates of interest prevailing on the date that HHS becomes entitled to recovery. The rate generally cannot be lower than the Department of Treasury's current value of funds rate or the applicable rate determined from the ''Schedule of Certified Interest Rates with Range of Maturities.'' This rate may be revised quarterly by the Secretary of the Treasury and shall be published quarterly by the Department of Health and Human Services in the **Federal Register**.

The Secretary of the Treasury has certified a rate of 12⅜% for the quarter ended September 30, 2006. This interest rate will remain in effect until such time as the Secretary of the Treasury notifies HHS of any change.

Dated: November 1, 2006.

Jean Augustine,

Director, Office of Financial Policy and Reporting.

[FR Doc. 06–9187 Filed 11–13–06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4150–04–M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[30Day–07–06AW]

Agency Forms Undergoing Paperwork Reduction Act Review

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) publishes a list of information collection requests under review by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35). To request a copy of these requests, call the CDC Reports Clearance Officer at (404) 639–5960 or send an e-mail to *omb@cdc.gov.* Send written comments to CDC Desk Officer, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, DC or by fax to (202) 395–6974. Written comments should be received within 30 days of this notice.

Proposed Project

Supplement to the National Birth Defects Prevention Study: Qualitative Assessment of the Attitudes Mothers Have Toward Collecting Biological Specimens on their Infants and Young Children to Study Risk Factors for Birth Defects and Preterm Delivery—New—National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDDD), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Background and Brief Description

The National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDDD), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), has been conducting the National Birth Defects Prevention Study (OMB number 0920–0010, Exp. 5/31/2009) since 1997. The NBDPS is a case-control study of major birth defects that includes cases identified from existing birth defect surveillance registries in nine states, including metropolitan Atlanta. Control infants are randomly selected from birth certificates or birth hospital records. Mothers of case and control infants are interviewed using a computer-assisted telephone interview. Parents are asked to collect cheek cells from themselves and their infants for DNA testing. Information gathered from both the interviews and the DNA specimens will be used to study independent genetic and environmental factors as well as gene-environment interactions for a broad range of carefully classified birth defects.

This proposed supplement to the National Birth Defects Prevention Study will use qualitative research to provide data on the barriers to participation in the collection of biological specimens by mothers on themselves, their infants, and young children. It is costly to implement the collection of biological specimens into an interview/questionnaire-based study. However, an ever-increasing number of studies include the examination of environmental and genetic interactions to help medical and public health professionals' better target appropriate interventions. A critical component for studies of gene variants is the collection of biological specimens. Participation and non-participation in the collection of biological specimens is not fully understood. We will conduct multiple well-designed focus groups to assess the attitudes of both mothers who participated and mothers who did not participate in the collection of biological specimens to increase the effectiveness of these studies. This information will be useful to many groups at the CDC who are currently collecting biological specimens from infants and their families but with less than optimal response rates and those who are working to implement studies that include the use of biological specimens.

Scientists from the National Birth Defects Prevention Study (NBDPS) in NCBDDD, the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) in NCCDPHP, and the Office of Genomics and Disease Prevention (OGDP) have received Collaborative Initiative intramural funding to conduct focus groups aimed at gaining insight into the barriers and motivations women have for participating in the collection of biological specimens. Among the three collaborating Centers within the Coordinating Center for Health Promotion, NCBDDD's National Birth Defects Prevention Study provides a unique opportunity for exploring the barriers and motivations toward collection of genetic material. This focus group project will recruit mothers who participated in the maternal interview for the National Birth Defects Prevention Study (NBDPS). There are no costs to the respondents other than their time. The total estimated annualized burden hours are 214.